

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-33 remain pending in the application.

The Examiner requests Applicants provide clarification of the correlation and identification of “uncoupling means” and “means” recited in claims 27-28, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that the “uncoupling means” and “means” have been identified at page 6 in last Amendment dated January 30, 2009. Nevertheless, for expediting prosecution, Applicants explain and present the support for claims 23, 27-28 as follows.

Uncoupling means as recited in claim 23, including an end-fitting 62 (wrist pin) and a housing 63 (bore) for uncoupling the flexible element from the weapon, and configured to be manually operable (*See, Figs. 6a and 6b, also see, page 8, line 34 to page 9, line 8 of the specification*).

Means as recited in claims 27 and 28 includes connecting means 8 positioned at one end of the flexible element and configured to hold the weapon (mortar 1). The connecting means 8 are formed by a mechanism configured to be lockable around a tubular part of the mortar 1. (*See, Fig.5b, also see page 8, line 4 to line 17*).

It is believed that discussion proved above is fully responsive to the communication dated April 14, 2009 and accordingly, the application should be examined on the merits.

In view of above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN HAM & BERNER, LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth M. Berner".

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